

AKRC-Education Newsletter 2025



AKRC Education Department

The Education department contributes and supports our 5 member First Nations in the delivery of quality educational programming. We strive to assist, advocate, support, and enable AKRC's First Nations in their education endeavors through a variety of programs, committees, and events we host.

The AKRC's Education department is guided by the Education Steering Committee Representatives whom we collaborate and consult with biweekly.

The collective goals for our department, include:

- Developing and promoting effective communication among AKRC First Nations
- Facilitating and researching the development of AKRC First Nations education programs
- Supporting students' education
- Student Recognition (awards & bursaries)
- Education Policy Analysis
- Advocacy
- Partnerships
- Strategies for Parental Engagement
- Technical Support



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AKRC, INC.

February

2025

Anishinaabe

Identity

&

Nationhood

Anishinaabe
Gakendaasowin

Who we are

AKRC Education
Staff Profiles

Council/Committee
Highlights

AKRC Staff Profiles &
Notes from Rhonda &
Crystal

Member Community
Education Highlights,
Partners & Funders &
AKRC Calendars



Our Education Staff intro's, Council/Committee

Education Steering Committee:

**Wendy Kuczma-Wauzhusk Onigum Nation,
Al Pittman-Onigaming First Nation,
Kathy Kishqueb-Onigaming First Nation,
Natasha Tom-Big Grassy First Nation,
Lorna Oshie-Northwest Angle #37,
Elizabeth Mitchell-Northwest Angle #33,
Jolene Quast-Northwest Angle #37,
Jodi Goliquer-Northwest Angle #37,**

Elder Council

**Ida Skead – Wauzhusk, Jeanette Skead – Wauzhusk,
Roy Tom – Big Grassy, Susan Archie – Big Grassy,
Alfred Oshie – NWA#37, Robert McLeod – NWA#37,
Gloria Green – Onigaming, Robert Bob – Onigaming,
Agnes Paul – NWA#33, Melvin Henry – NWA#33**

Youth Council

**Cadence Smith-Anderson, Esha Powassan, Caitlyn Bird,
Herbie (Damon) Sandy**



Who We Are: AKRC Education Staff Intro's:

Language Preservation & Revitalization Coordinator-Caroline Archibald

Early Years Coordinator-Whitney Nash

Education Partnership Program Coordinator

Transition Coordinator-Phoebe Powassan

Structural Readiness Project Worker-Wendy Kabel

Regional Education Agreement Worker-Estelle Simard

COMING SOON:)

Our Education Staff Profiles, Council/Committee Highlights



Education Administration Support- Misty Blackhawk

Boozhoo, Niigaanetaamook indigo, Makwa 'ndoodem,
Northwest Angle #33 in'donjii.

Hello, my name is Misty Blackhawk. I am very excited to be apart of the Anishinaabeg of Kapaikotawangag Resource Council as the Education Administration Support Worker. I look forward to working in partnership with the AKRC Education Committees to support all students of AKRC.

I reside in the community of Dogpaw neighbouring to Animakii Wa Zhing #37 and Noatkamegwanning. I am a mother of 5; 3 sons and 2 daughters with my first Noozhis on the way. My hobbies include fishing, cooking, camping and attending hockey games- favorite team are the Winnipeg Jets.

I graduated from Personal Support Worker in 2014 and Pre-Health Sciences in 2015, working in the Health field for 10+ years from Longterm care - Palliative Care. After which I moved into Social Work doing 1-1 with Youth and soon after Administrative Assistance.

Working with and for the People of all life's stages has always been a passion for me, being a helper and support is a very rewarding job in itself.

Miigwech



Special Education Coordinator- Sherry Lammy

Boozhoo, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Sherry Lammy, I'm the special education coordinator with AKRC. I have been there for a little over a year. My previous work was as a dialysis nurse at Health Sciences Centre for 13 years. My home community is Crane River, Manitoba. I'm the mom of special little girl and am passionate about working with the families and their little ones to receive the services and supports that they need in the communities and off. Miigwetch.





Member Community Education Highlights, Partners & Funders

Notes from our Communities:

*Hi, My name is Judy Major and I am now the Education Counselor for Big Grassy First Nation. I am thrilled to be back in with the Education program and happy to be working alongside Natasha Tom, Ed. Director/Principal of Pegamigaabo School. I was previously in this position up until 2022. Just letting you know a little about myself. Please add me to your mailing/email list for any education information. Miigwech, Judy Major-Education Counselor at Big Grassy First Nation. Ph - 1-807-488-5916

*Angle Inlet School, Angle Inlet, MINN NWA#33 students attending , September 30th activities, awesome smiles!!

(Photo credit-Classroom Teacher & E.M.)





Member Community, Education Highlights, Partners & Funders Info:

An Inspiration, Congratulations Samara!

Hello reader,

My name is Samara and I'm twenty five years old. I am writing this in the year of 2025 and this is because I am coming forth with my recovery story.

Looking back, it's clear that my struggle with alcohol didn't start in a vacuum. There was a period where I gravitated towards someone who normalized, even encouraged drinking. What started out as casual drinks hanging out quickly morphed into a constant cycle of partying and intoxication.

I remember feeling accepted and a sense of belonging within that crowd, and at the time, the alcohol seemed like a fun, harmless, part of the package. It was a way to connect, to let loose, and to feel like I was fitting into the wild crowd.

However I now realize that this was exactly the environment that planted my seed of addiction. My tolerance grew, and before I could blink, I was spiraling into a path I told myself would never happen. The very person I thought was my friend contributed to my demise. As I was surrounded by laughter, glasses clinking, a sport game playing.

A sudden wash of loneliness came over me. It was a very strange disconnect; I was here, amidst vibrant energy yet my mind was miles away, picturing a soft smile and hearing childish giggles. My daughter, a sharp longing tearing through the fabricated joy I was trying to maintain. I missed the simple moments, the bedtime stories, the sting of guilt, the thought of home.

This is what I needed to spark something in me and I walked out on the people I was with.

Swallowing my pride and calling my therapist on her emergency line was an eye opener.

Knowing that I took the first dive to get help, I was one step closer to home. After my rehab I remember calling my mother and telling her that I was better and ready to come home if I could.

Navigating the complexities of healing from within while simultaneously nurturing a fractured relationship with my daughter has been a delicate dance. Coming home after everything was less a triumphant step return and more a tentative step into a shared space that felt both familiar and foreign. The rhythm of household tasks mingled with an unfamiliar tension that lingered between us. I found myself needing to actively choose patience and understanding, reminding myself that her actions were not a personal attack, but rather a reflection of the hurt she experienced.

This wasn't about instantly erasing the past but laying groundwork for the future. The desire to provide for my daughter with every opportunity fueled a fire within me, I knew I wanted her to have a very fulfilling life, one where doors were opened rather than closed. I owed her this much.



Member Community, Education Highlights, Partners & Funders Info:

An Inspiration, *Continued*

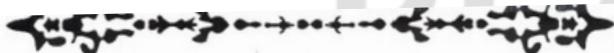
This conviction led me to a pivotal moment; the decision to leave my comfort zone and jump headfirst into a new job. It wasn't a move without hesitation; it was a leap of faith, a gamble on the future we both deserved. Yet, the uncertainty was outweighed by the hope that this change would plant seeds for her success. Little did I know this job, initially a means to an end, would unexpectedly become the catalyst. It exposed me to new networks and perspectives, and consequently, opened a pathway I hadn't even dreamed of. It ultimately led to an incredible school offer. A testament to the power of my ambition and the risks I was willing to take for her.

This wasn't all about a new school; it was about something deeper. It was about the new future we were building together. The routine of school had once felt monotonous, a daily obligation rather than an opportunity. But somewhere along the way, a shift occurred. It wasn't a dramatic event, but more like a quiet ignition - a spark that fueled my curiosity and transformed my perspective on everything. Suddenly in school and life challenges felt less like hurdles and more like exciting puzzle pieces waiting to be solved. This newly discovered passion pushed me forward, making long hours, late nights, frustration and bone tiredness seem less burdensome. Now graduation is on my horizon, a tangible landmark confirming the effort and dedication I poured into my studies. This momentous occasion felt less like an ending and more like a springboard, ready to launch me into my next exciting chapter. The most thrilling part? I've been fortunate enough to be accepted into not one, but three incredible universities. Each offering a unique path for my endeavors. I found myself again, you can do anything you put your mind to, you're the only thing stopping yourself. As we reach the end of this story, of our shared time together, it feels right to pause and offer a heartfelt thank you. Your presence as a reader has been valuable, knowing you read my words and felt my story...



Member Community, Education Highlights, Partners & Funders Info:

Congratulations Samara, Miigwetch so much for sharing!



Dear Samara

Congratulations on being accepted into the Advanced EClinical Chapter of Honor Society; The FPC Executive Board Selection Committee has recommended you for the member status this year. After a thorough review of all your courses, test scores, GPA, faculty comments and the exam test. The committee has concluded your information fully meets all criteria necessary for membership. Please keep in mind the Honor Society accepts members who have demonstrated not only high achievements but also truly dedicated levels of service and involvement to both school and community in general, effective and obvious leadership in such activities, self-discipline, self-motivation, and brave character as shown through responsibility and behavior and attitude in many situations, therefore it is imperative that you continue in the name of NHS in your newest journey ahead. Shoot for the stars and know NHS is proud to have you.



As part of the Indigenous Students we have you will be gifted a special diploma holder, two beaded items and a blanket.

Below is the breakdown of what your graduating with and what it means for you!

Summa cum laude - is for your accomplishment in the highest academic achievement

Valedictorian- is for the accomplishment of the highest GPA and class rank

Plus the 4 cords you will also get

Navy blue/white - Pre med division club

Silver - accomplishing to keep your GPA at 4.0

Black - Honors Society

Purple - Diversity

MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 BLACK HISTORY MONTH
PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU WANT TO ADD TO OUR MONTHLY CALENDAR!						
HAVE A GREAT VALENTINES DAY FEB. 14TH AND MORE ACTIVITIES & EVENTS COMING NEXT MONTH :)						
2	3	4 HOMEWORK CLUB 5-8PM @ DOGPAW NWA #33	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 HOMEWORK CLUB 5-8PM @ DOGPAW NWA #33	12	13 ANTI-BULLYING PRESENTATION @ ONICAMING MIIKANAK SCHOOL	14 VANLENTINE'S DAY	15
16	17 FAMILY DAY HOLIDAY	18 HOMEWORK CLUB 5-8PM @ DOGPAW NWA #33	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 HOMEWORK CLUB 5-8PM @ DOGPAW NWA #33	26	27	28	